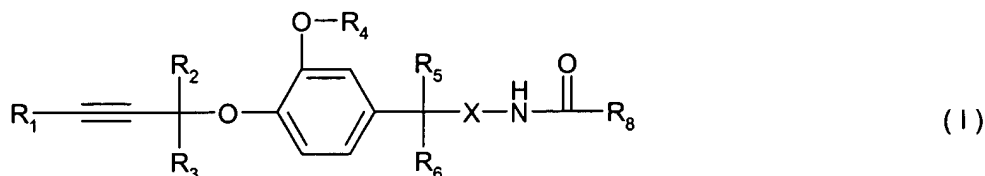


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original): A compound of formula I



including the optical isomers thereof and mixtures of such isomers, wherein

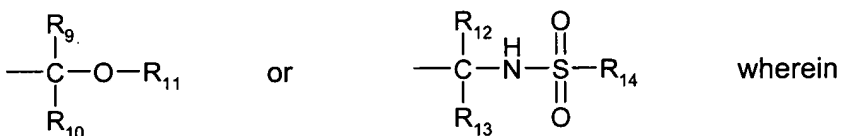
R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl; phenyl and naphthyl being optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, halogen, cyano and nitro;

R₂, R₃, R₅, R₆, and R₇ are each independently of each other hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₆-alkyl; or

X is O or N-R₇; and

R₈ is a group



R₉ is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,3-biphenyl or 1,4-biphenyl, each optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, halogen, cyano, nitro and C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl; R₁₀ and R₁₁ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl or C₃-C₈-alkynyl;

R₁₂ is C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl; phenyl and naphthyl being optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, aryl, halogen, cyano and nitro R₁₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl or C₃-C₈-alkynyl; and R₁₄ is C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkylamino or C₁-C₈-dialkylamino.

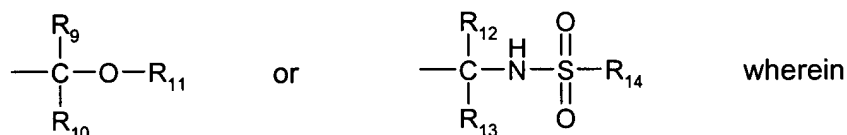
Claim 2. (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₁₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₈-alkyl, X is oxygen, R₈ is -C(R₉R₁₀)-OR₁₁ and R₁₁ is hydrogen or C₃-C₈-alkynyl.

Claim 3. (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is oxygen, R₈ is -C(R₁₂R₁₃)NH-SO₂-R₁₄, and R₁₂ is C₁-C₈-alkyl or branched C₁-C₈-alkyl.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~[any of claims 1 to 3]~~ claim 1, wherein R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl; phenyl and naphthyl being optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, halogen, cyano and nitro;

R₄ is C₁-C₆-alkyl; or

R₈ is a group



R₉ is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,3-biphenyl or 1,4-biphenyl, each optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, halogen, cyano, nitro and C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl; R₁₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₃-C₈-alkynyl; and R₁₄ is C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkylamino or C₁-C₈-dialkylamino.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~[any of claims 1 to 4]~~
claim 1, wherein

R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl; and R₂, R₃, R₅ and R₆ are hydrogen; and R₄ is C₁-C₆-alkyl; and R₉ is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,3-biphenyl or 1,4-biphenyl, each optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, halogen, cyano, nitro and C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl; and R₁₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and R₁₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₂-C₈-alkynyl; and R₁₂ is C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₈-alkynyl; phenyl or benzyl wherein the phenyl and benzyl is optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkynyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, C₁-C₈-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈-alkylsulfonyl, halogen, cyano, nitro and C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl; and R₁₃ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and R₁₄ is C₁-C₆-alkyl; C₁-C₆-monoalkylamino or C₁-C₆-dialkylamino.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): A compound of formula I according to ~~[any of claims 1 to 5]~~
claim 1, wherein R₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R₂, R₃, R₅ and R₆ are hydrogen; and R₄ is methyl or ethyl; and R₉ is phenyl or naphthyl each optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, halogen, cyano, nitro and C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl; and R₁₀ and R₁₃ are each hydrogen; and R₁₁ is hydrogen or C₂-C₆-alkynyl; and R₁₂ is C₂-C₆-alkyl or C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl; and R₁₄ is C₁-C₆-alkyl or C₁-C₆-dialkylamino.

Claim 7. (Original): A compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from the group comprising

2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-phenyl-acetamide,
N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-phenyl-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide,
2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-phenyl-acetamide,
N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-phenyl-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide,
2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetamide,

2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-
 acetamide,
 2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-
 acetamide,
 2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-
 acetamide,
 2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-
 acetamide,
 2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-2-prop-2-ynyloxy-
 acetamide,
 (S)-2-methylsulfonylamino-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-3-methyl-
 butyramide,
 (S)-2-methylsulfonylamino-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-3-methyl-
 butyramide,
 (S)-N-{4-[3-(4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-3-methoxy-benzyloxy}-2-
 methylsulfonylamino-3-methyl-butyramide,
 (S)-2-ethylsulfonylamino-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-3-methyl-butyramide,
 (S)-N-{4-[3-(4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-3-methoxy-benzyloxy}-2-N,N'-dimethylamino-
 sulfonylamino-3-methyl-butyramide,
 2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-acetamide,
 (S)-2-ethylsulfonylamino-N-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyloxy)-3-methyl-butyramide,
 (S)-N-{4-[3-(4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-3-methoxy-benzyloxy}-2-
 ethanesulfonylamino-3-methyl-butyramide,
 hydroxy-phenyl-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 phenyl-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 hydroxy-phenyl-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,

phenyl-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 (4-chloro-phenyl)-hydroxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 (4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (4-chloro-phenyl)-hydroxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 (4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (4-bromo-phenyl)-hydroxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 (4-bromo-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (4-bromo-phenyl)-hydroxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazide,
 (4-bromo-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-hydroxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-hydroxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 (3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy-acetic acid N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-
 hydrazide,
 N-((S)-1-[N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazinocarbonyl]-2-methyl-propyl)-
 methylsulfonamide,
 N-((S)-1-[N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazinocarbonyl]-2-methyl-propyl)-
 methylsulfonamide,
 N-[(S)-1-(N'-{4-[3-(4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-3-methoxy-benzyl}-hydrazinocarbonyl)-
 2-methyl-propyl]-methylsulfonamide,
 N-((S)-1-[N'-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazinocarbonyl]-2-methyl-propyl)-
 ethylsulfonamide,

N-[(S)-1-[N'-(3-methoxy-4-pent-2-ynyloxy-benzyl)-hydrazinocarbonyl]-2-methyl-propyl]-ethylsulfonamide, and

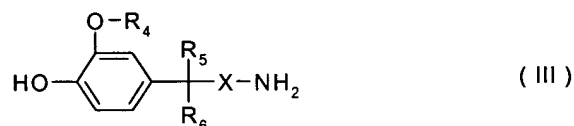
N-[(S)-1-(N'-{4-[3-(4-chloro-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-3-methoxy-benzyl}-hydrazinocarbonyl)-2-methyl-propyl]-ethylsulfonamide.

Claim 8. (Original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which comprises

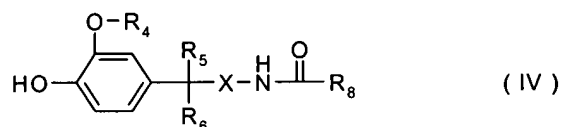
a) reacting an acid of formula II or a carboxy-activated derivative of an acid of formula II



wherein R₈ is as defined for formula I with an amine of formula III



wherein R₄, R₅, R₆ and X are as defined for formula I and reacting the intermediate phenol of formula IV

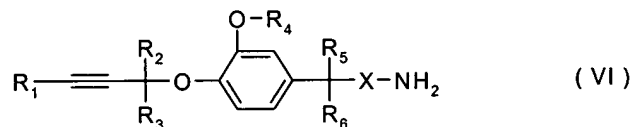


wherein R₄, R₅, R₆, R₈ and X are as defined for formula I with a compound of formula V



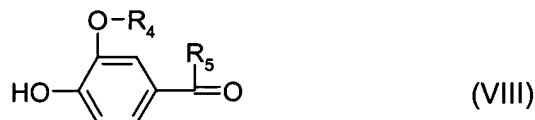
wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are as defined for formula I and wherein Y is a leaving group; or

b) reacting a compound of formula VI



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆ and X are as defined for formula I with an acid of formula II or a carboxy-activated derivative of an acid of formula II; or

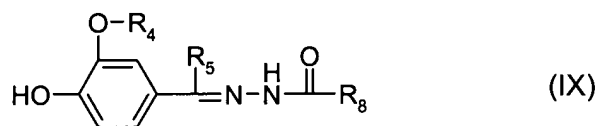
c) reacting a compound of formula VIII



wherein R₄ and R₅ are as defined for formula I with an acid hydrazide of formula VII

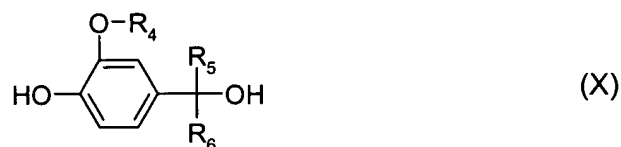


wherein R₈ is as defined for formula I, and hydrating the intermediate acylhydrazone of formula IX

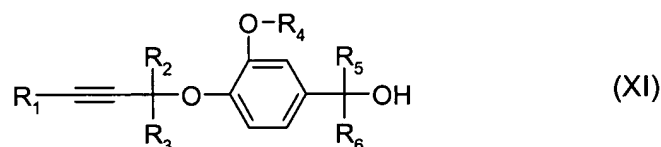


yielding in a compound of formula IVa, wherein R₄, R₅ and R₈ are as defined for formula I;
or

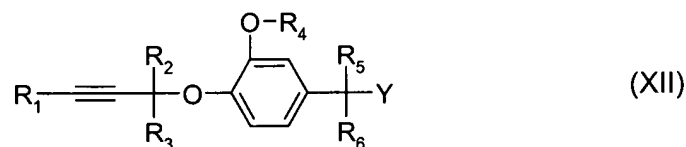
d) reacting a phenol of formula X



wherein R₄, R₅ and R₆ are as defined for formula I, with a compound of formula V as defined above, and transforming the intermediate alcohol of formula XI



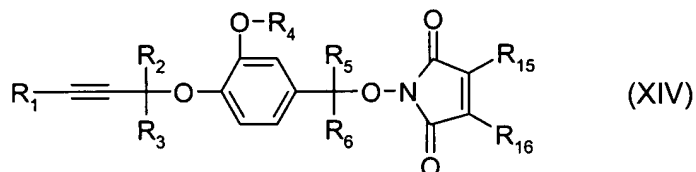
wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are as defined for formula I, into a compound of formula XII,



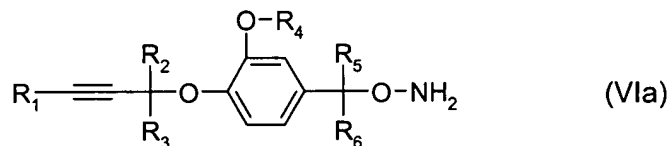
wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are as defined for formula I and wherein Y is a leaving group like a halide such as a chloride or bromide or a sulfonic ester such as a tosylate, mesylate or triflate, and reacting the compound of formula XII with a compound of formula XIII



wherein R₁₅ and R₁₆ are hydrogen, halogen, methyl or part of an annelated benzene ring to yield an N-alkoxyimide of formula XIV



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are as defined for formula I and R₁₅ and R₁₆ are as defined for formula XIII, and reacting the n-alkoxyimide of formula XIV with an amine derivative, like methylamine or butylamine or a hydrazine derivative, such as hydrazine, hydrazine hydrate or methylhydrazine to yield a compound of formula VIa



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are as defined for formula I.

Claim 9. (Original): A composition for controlling and protecting against phytopathogenic microorganisms, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient together with a suitable carrier.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling and preventing an infestation of crop plants by phytopathogenic microorganisms, which comprises the application of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 ~~for of a composition according to claim 9~~ as active ingredient to the plant, to parts of plants or to the locus thereof.

Claim 12. (Original): A method according to claim 11, wherein the phytopathogenic microorganisms are fungal organisms.

Claim 13. (New): A method of controlling and preventing an infestation of crop plants by phytopathogenic microorganisms, which comprises the application of a composition according to claim 9 to plant, to parts of plants or to the locus thereof.

Claim 14. (New): A method according to claim 13, wherein the phytopathogenic microorganisms are fungal organisms.